



*Amanda N. Kallen, M.D.
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Connecticut Section Vice Chair / Legislative Chair*

*Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
Yale School of Medicine
310 Cedar Street, LSOG 304D
New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8063*

*Telephone (203) 737-5465
Fax (203) 785-7819
Email: Amanda.kallen@yale.edu*

March 7, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield
The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom
The Honorable Alex Kasser
The Honorable Matt Blumenthal
The Honorable John A. Kissel
The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My Name is Dr. Amanda Kallen, and I am writing as the Chair of the Connecticut Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG-CT) to provide testimony in support of **Raised Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act**. I am also an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine and a Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility (REI) physician at the Yale Fertility Center.

ACOG-CT strongly supports this bill. Connecticut has the second highest rate of births through assisted reproduction in the country, and is home to thousands of LGBTQ couples who are patients to our members. ACOG-CT believes that no matter how a family is formed, our state's laws should provide legal protections that advance that security and health of the family unit.

ACOG-CT is committed to equality for LGBTQ patients. As the mission of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists makes clear, "Obstetrician–gynecologists should recognize the diversity in parenting desires that exists in the LGBTQIA . . . communities and should take steps to ensure that clinical spaces are affirming and open to all patients, such that equitable and comprehensive reproductive health care can meet the needs of these communities." We recognize that access to "family building resources is essential to the health and well-being of these communities."

As an REI physician at Yale, I have devoted my practice to ensuring that *all* those who wish to build families are able to do so. Indeed, one of my focuses at the Yale Fertility Clinic has been to provide cutting-edge care for our LGBTQ patients. Medical advances involving donor gametes and surrogacy have given LGBTQ people a variety of fertility options, and my work has given me the privilege of seeing many families created this way.

ACOG-CT recognizes the importance of secure legal parentage—particularly for the non-biological parents who are common in families formed through assisted reproduction, including LGBTQ families. Current Connecticut law does not adequately protect these families. Our state's laws on assisted reproduction explicitly apply only to "husband" and "wife," leaving out LGBTQ and unmarried parents. Often, non-biological parents are forced to go



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through a lengthy and arduous process to adopt their own children in order to secure legal parentage. We support the CPA because it will ensure that all of my patients and their children, regardless of biological relationship, marital status, gender, or sexual orientation, are legally protected.

We also support the CPA because it will provide clear standards to protect all parties involved in the surrogacy process, including the intended parents, the person acting as a surrogate, and the child. I have seen surrogacy procedures gain in popularity in recent years, and it is imperative that we modernize our state's laws to properly regulate this increasingly common form of family creation.

For the above reasons, we ask that the Committee support Bill 6321. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Kallen
Chair, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Connecticut Section